it is proposed to set up 06 more IIMs (in Raipur, Rohtak, Ranchi, Tiruchirapalli, Uttarakhand and Rajasthan) in the Eleventh Plan. Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs) at Pune, Mohali, Bhopal, Thiruvananthapuram and Kolkatta have also started functioning. 20 Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs) and 10 National Institutes of Technology (NITs) are also being set up during the Eleventh Plan. There has also been a phenomenal increase in the number of institutions in the technical and management sector in the country. The number of AICTE approved institutions, as on August 31, 2008 was 6244.

Admission of foreign students in IIMs

1749. SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to allow IIMs to open doors for foreign students for admission through Graduate Management Aptitude Test (GMAT);

(b) whether this will not be affecting the opportunities for Indian students as limited seats are available in the IIMs; and

(c) if so, whether Government also plans to increase seats in the IIMs by establishing more institutions in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) The Ministry has suggested the Directors of all IIMs to come up with a formal proposal to devise ways of attracting/inducting foreign students into IIMs.

(b) and (c) Induction of foreign students will not be at the cost of seats for Indian students. The Government is setting up seven new IIMs during the Eleventh Five Year Plan which would increase seats in the IIM system.

Assistance for Mid-Day Meal Scheme to Maharashtra

1750. SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Central assistance released during the last three years for Mid-Day Meal Scheme to Maharashtra, at the primary and upper primary stage, year-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government has proposed to extend Mid-Day Meal Scheme for children studying in class VI to VIII; and

(c) the number of children at primary and upper primary level who would get the benefit of Mid-Day Meal Scheme in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) and (b) The Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) was extended to upper primary stage (classes VI-VIII) initially in 43 Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs) with effect from 1.10.2007 and in all blocks